

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 04983 230927Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NEA-07 IO-06 PM-03
NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 L-01 DODE-00
/056 W

-----050179 231110Z /23

R 221733Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0347

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 4983

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MR, AG, SG

SUBJECT: SENGHOR'S COMMENTS ON THE POLISARIO PROBLEM

1. SUMMARY: SENGHOR SEES SPECIAL OAU SUMMIT ON
WESTERN SAHARA AS NEXT TEST FOR NEWLY ASSERTIVE WEST
AFRICAN MODERATES. FOLLOWING MEETING LAST WEEK
BETWEEN MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND SENGHOR IN
DAKAR, SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER ASSANE SECK HAS
BEEN DISPATCHED TO GAMBIA, IVORY COAST AND CAMEROON
TO DISCUSS POLISARIO PROBLEM. SENGHOR EXPRESSED DEEP
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 04983 230927Z

HOSTILITY TOWARD ALGERIA AND CALLED ALGERIAN
AGGRESSION MAIN REASON FOR RECENTLY INITIATED
WEST AFRICAN SECURITY AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATION AFTER CRE-
DENTIALS PRESENTATION FORMALITIES JULY 22
(SEPTELS), SENGHOR TOLD ME THAT WEST AFRICAN

MODERATES WILL NEXT BE DEMONSTRATING THEIR ABILITY TO COORDINATE AND BE ASSERTIVE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OAU CONFERENCE ON THE WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM SCHEDULED FOR LUSAKA IN OCTOBER. THE REASON FOREIGN MINISTER OF STATE SECK WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE CEREMONY WAS THAT HE WAS ON A MISSION TO GAMBIA, IVORY COAST AND CAMEROON TO TALK ABOUT THE POLISARIO PROBLEM.

3. SECK'S MISSION WAS INSPIRED BY RECENT VISIT TO DAKAR BY MAURITANIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER, OULD MOUKNASS (WHO MET WITH SENGHOR JULY 14). OULD MOUKNASS ASKED SENGHOR TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO GET THE LUSAKA MEETING POSTPONED. SENGHOR'S RESPONSE WAS "WHAT IS YOUR FALLBACK IF A MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE WANT THE MEETING TO GO AHEAD?" OULD MOUKNASS' REPLY WAS THAT HE HOPED SENGHOR WOULD ASSURE FULL ATTENDANCE AND COOPERATION ON THE PART OF THE MODERATES. SECK IS NOW CARRYING THAT MESSAGE.

4. IT WAS DURING THIS PART OF OUR DISCUSSION THAT SENGHOR REITERATED HIS DEEP HOSTILITY TOWARD ALGERIA. HE ACCUSED ALGERIA OF TELLING THE TOUBOU LEADERS THAT IT IS A DISGRACE TO LIVE UNDER BLACK RULE, AND THAT THEY SHOULD ALL REBEL. HE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 DAKAR 04983 230927Z

ALSO SAID THAT PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE OF NIGER WITHDREW HIS COMMITMENT TO THE WEST AFRICAN NON-AGRESSION MUTUAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENT BECAUSE OF DIRECT ALGERIAN THREATS. THE NEED TO DEFEND AGAINST ALGERIAN AGGRESSION IS THE REASON FOR THE MUTUAL SECURITY AGREEMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE, SENGHOR CONCLUDED.

5. COMMENT. EVERY TIME THE POLISARIO SHOOT UP A MAURITANIAN TOWN CLOSER TO THE SENEGAL RIVER, SENGHOR BECOMES JITTERY ABOUT THE SOUTHWARD EXTENSION OF ALGERIAN POWER. I DON'T BLAME HIM.
COHEN

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